

國立中央大學 112 學年度碩士班考試入學試題

所別： 英美語文學系碩士班

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科目： 文化與文學分析

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, 'it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less."

"The question is,' said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

"The question is,' said Humpty Dumpty, 'which is to be master – that's all.'

*Alice in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass.* Lewis Carroll

"I have treated theory as a story and vice versa like rowdy guests at a dinner table each clamoring for attention rather than sitting around the campfire telling stories or listening to an expert on theory hold forth with ten-dollar words in the silent desert of an audience."

"My sense is that what is today called "theory" is a cross between magic and the need for mastery; mastery over other people and mastery over reality."

Michael Taussig, *Palma Africana*

'The function of criticism now is to abandon politics. Whatever the voice in us is, it relates to perception and knowledge.' Harold Bloom interview with Joshua Cohen

This is a riddle. How do these quotes from Lewis Carroll, Michael Taussig, and Harold Bloom converse and subvert one another?

For example: What is theory? What is mastery? Is mastery over reality possible? Who is Humpty Dumpty to be Master? Who is Harold Bloom? What is perception and knowledge in relation to Literary Theory? Who is to be master/mistress of criticism? And why should theory be 'magical'?

One essay question: (100%)

Discuss one or as many of these questions as you can.